

Barre Agency of Human Services Staff Newsletter

April 18, 2007
8th Issue



The Agency of Human Services mission is to work as one agency, in partnership with communities, to provide effective services that are delivered respectfully, easy to access, well-coordinated, & aimed at providing well-being & intervening before crisis.

Visit our new Barre AHS website at:
<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/barre>

Upcoming Barre AHS Staff Events

April 20 from 8:00 am to Noon – **New Barre AHS Staff Orientation Tour** – as part of our effort to assist new staff become aware of the broad range of services and supports available to individuals and families, we're offering new staff the opportunity to visit each of the AHS offices to hear a brief overview from all departments and divisions. The tour will be capped off with free pizza.

April 26 through April 28 – Barre Rotary Home Show & Health Fair, Barre Auditorium – Barre AHS will have a larger presence at the Home Show. Most departments and divisions are coming together to develop key messages for the public during this well-attended event.

Stop by our tables if you're planning to visit the show.

May 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm – The Effects of Trauma Workshop presented by Sherry Burnette, AHS Trauma Coordinator, at the Courthouse. To register, contact Kit Andrews at 476-0144 or candrews@doc.state.vt.us.

June 4 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm – The 4th Barre Agency of Human Services Staff Day, Barre Elks Lodge. We're still hoping to hear from AHS staff about any presentations you'd like to make or you'd like to hear about - we'll invite our community partners to share resource information. Contact don.mandelkorn@ahs.state.vt.us with your questions.

Please note that we're also planning an all AHS staff barbecue sometime in late May at Playground 2000 – please standby.....

Success Stories from your Colleagues

Many of you have suggested that we share our success stories with one another - here are a few to get us started. Please send along your success stories to us for future newsletters.

From Field Services –

In April of 2005, I was asked to help Probation & Parole pull a team together to develop a re-entry plan for a 29 year old man, who we'll call Harry. Harry had reached his minimum sentence, but had high treatment needs coupled with challenges around his living arrangements. Harry had a number of diagnoses complicating his return to the community.

The probation officer, Paul Coates, (now with Voc Rehab) and I identified a number of people we believed might be able to assist us. We also asked Harry who he wanted on his team. His mother and brother were key support people to him, and before long, we had a pretty robust team, including Harry himself. Our first task was to figure out, as a team, what strengths and needs Harry had. Secondly, we talked about how we might maximize Harry's strengths while trying to create a program to meet his individual needs. Our planning took many months, but the team decided Harry would do well in a home with a set of professional parents and an array of day supports.

We brought in Washington County Mental Health who offered to create the program. Once we had a proposed budget, we spoke with key state people from DAIL, DOC and Health. Using a blended funding package under the Medicaid Waiver, we were able to match the funding to the program. After a year of planning and negotiating, Harry came back to the community.

Harry continued to be supervised by Probation and Parole, but was living in a “in individualized program” tailored to meet his needs. Harry, since returning to the community, has done exceptionally well. He continues involve himself in treatment, works part-time, engages with his support team and has repaired relationships with his family. Harry will “max out” in October of this year, but will continue to benefit from his program and continue to live with the professional parents.

This effort has worked (so far) because of the team of people, who continue to meet regularly, and discuss with Harry about his present and future needs. Cindy Nichols, now Harry’s probation officer, has kept up the great work to translate Harry’s supervision into a positive experience for him.

A great example of teamwork and working with someone holistically, building on strengths and meeting needs.

Public Service Recognition Week
May 7 thru May 11

Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated nationally to show appreciation to public service employees and to showcase the services we provide.

If you have any success stories or ideas for the newsletter, please send them along to us.

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